

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 05473 160909Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-08 TRSE-00 AID-05 H-01

COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /046 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8598

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 5473

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, ECON, EGEN, PFOR, MY, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TRAVEL OF UNDER SECRETARY COOPER AND
ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE TO ASEAN CAPITALS

REF: (A) STATE 190106; (B) KUALA LUMPUR 5372

1. MFA PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY SATHIAH TELEPHONED
EMBASSY LATE YESTERDAY TO SAY THAT PROSPECTIVE VISITS BY
UNDER SECRETARY COOPER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE
WOULD BE FEASIBLE IN TENTATIVE TIME FRAMES PROPOSED. HE
ADDED THAT THE GOM WELCOMED THEIR PROPOSED VISITS AND THAT
SHOULD VISITS MATERIALIZE, "APPROPRIATE" GOM OFFICIALS
WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR MEETINGS/APPOINTMENTS.

2. REGARDING UNDERSECRETARY COOPER'S POSSIBLE VISIT,
SATHIAH SAID THAT A WORKING DINNER AS PER REF B, HOSTED
BY THE AMBASSADOR, WOULD BE SUITABLE. IN RESPONSE TO OUR
QUESTION, HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRAITE TO INVITE
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER MUSA HITAM, TRADE AND
INDUSTRIES MINISTER HAMZAH, FINANCE MINISTER RAZALEIGH,
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BANK NEGARA GOVERNOR ISMAIL, AND FOREIGN MINISTER
RITHAUDDEEN. HE ALSO DID NOT REPEAT NOT EXCLUDE THE
POSSIBILITY THAT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MAHATHIR, WHO
RECENTLY RETURNED FROM AN INVESTMENT PROMOTION TRIP TO
THE U.S., MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING.

3. SATHIAH REMARKED THAT "FOR THE MOMENT" IT APPEARS

THAT THE ASEAN DELEGATION TO THE SEPTEMBER 7-9 ASEAN-US CONSULATIONS IN MANILA WILL BE AT THE SENIOR OFFICIAL LEVEL, RATHER THAN MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ALTHOUGH THE DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY PHILIPPINE FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO. THAT BEING THE CASE, NO MALAYSIAN MINISTER WOULD BE TRAVELING TO MANILA AND HENCE THOSE ON OUR SUGGESTED INVITATION LIST PRESUMABLY WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THE DINNER. HE ADDED THAT THE GOM WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR A VISIT TO AN OIL PALM FACILITY.

4. SATHIAH SAID THE PROSPECTIVE VISIT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST COMING ON THE EVE OF PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE U.S. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH HOLBROOKE AND THE MFA IS ALSO PROPOSING AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, HE ADDED.

5. IN VIEW OF THE BREVITY OF THE VISITS, WE AGREED THAT THEY WOULD BE BILLED AS WORKING VISITS WITH FOCUS ON SUBSTANCE AND THEREFORE FORMALITIES WOULD BE MINIMAL. SATHIAH ASKED THAT WE CONVEY FURTHER DETAILS TO HIM IF AND WHEN VISIT PLANS MATERIALIZE, INCLUDING NAMES OF OTHERS IN THEIR PARTIES.

6. COMMENT: SINCE SATHIAH DID NOT HAVE SPECIFIC INFORMATION WHICH KEY OFFICIALS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR DINNER WITH UNDER

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SECRETARY COOPER, WE ARE SOUNDING OUT MINISTRIES DIRECTLY TO PIN THIS DOWN. (MFA THOUGHT IT WAS POSSIBLE MUSA HITAM WOULD BE TRAVELING ABROAD.) WE WILL REPORT RESULTS OF THESE FOLLOWUP INQUIRIES.
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